



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

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### HMMWVs receive safety upgrades

HMMWVs in Southwest Asia are receiving equipment upgrades to enhance protection and increase survivability for Soldiers.

The upgrades, which include a fire suppression system, improved seat restraints, an intercom system, a gunner's restraint, and single movement door locks, will be applied to all HMMWVs in Iraq. Medium and heavy tactical vehicles will receive the upgrades at a later date.

Vehicles undergoing repairs or receiving armor will automatically receive the new safety upgrades, said Col. Charles Wilson, commander of the Army Field Support Brigade-SWA. Wilson oversees all vehicle repair and upgrades in Qatar, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

As more sets of the safety upgrades are received in theater, technical teams from the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command will travel to installation sites throughout theater to train installers and provide technical expertise on the safety improvements.

### Army supporting cellular service via military satellite in New Orleans

The Army recently deployed satellite communications gear to New Orleans to serve as backup communications support for cell phone services lost due to the flooding of equipment and underground communications lines because of Hurricane Katrina. The gear enables Soldiers and relief workers to communicate using their personal cell phones.

Army communications engineers arrived first at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport with an ad hoc deployment of readily available communications gear Sept. 10 and established a presence the next day at Naval Support Activity Algiers. A project to support the two sites with more suitable gear was completed Sept. 16.

Although the cellular antenna towers are undamaged, some of the underground and low-lying communications infrastructure for the cellular phone service was flooded along with homes, vehicles and businesses in the parishes of New Orleans, according to Chief Warrant Officer Joe Kobsar, team leader of the Special Projects and Homeland Security Office of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command. The low-lying infrastructure connects the antennas to the public switch telephony network that allows cellular service to function.

The Army equipment provides a backup for the damaged infrastructure by "injecting" a satellite-based communications linkage from the cellular base tower to the public switch telephony network via a communications hub in Atlanta, according to Kobsar.

### TARDEC tests engines, transmissions to support forces

The Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center's Mobility Technology Area is testing engines and transmissions in support of the Army's current force. Testing will be conducted on the Bradley Fighting Vehicle transmission, the M1 Abrams engine, the HMMWV engine and chassis plus various Auxiliary Power Units. The testing will help resolve problems, provide information for source selection boards and enhance technological advantages and offerings for the Army.

### Did you know...

Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command was awarded the 2005 Army Strategic Readiness System Best Practice Award at the 2nd Annual Army SRS Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 13. The award recognizes an Army staff, major command or secretariat that has demonstrated best practice in implementing and utilizing SRS in their organization to achieve their strategic goals. To be chosen for the award, an organization must: implement SRS and the basic scorecard as defined by the Army SRS Operations Center and the Kaplan/Norton methodology, and exemplify one of the principles of a strategy-focused organization.